



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, July 23rd, 2023

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, July 23rd

9:30 A.M. Livestream is available on the LTUMC YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCg

RINGING OF THE BELL – *Please observe silence as we prepare for the service.*

PRELUDE

Prelude on “Land of Rest” Gilbert M. Martin

GREETING *(Please Stand)*

L: Weeds and seeds, growing together.

P: Each will influence the other.

L: What will we learn from the weeds?

P: Trials and tribulations, choices that have not always worked out. Weeds can teach us about perseverance — consider the tough dandelion plant pushing its way up through the pavement — for some it’s just a weed, but for others there are lessons to be learned.

L: What will be gained from seeds?

P: Inside each one of us is a special person, waiting to be nurtured to wholeness. Each seed is unique; each has its own gifts to offer.

L: In God’s garden, God’s love extends to both – asking both to consider what each has to offer to a hurting world.

P: Lord, help us to be good seeds, bearing fruits of kindness and compassion. Keep us mindful of those for whom life has been difficult and yet they persist in trying to make each day better. Be with us in worship today and change our hearts and lives. AMEN.

HYMN #384

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

Father God, Holy Gardener who sustains and nurtures all life, open us today to your life-giving grace and transformative love. As we notice our internal struggles, empower us to greet the wheat and the weeds in our own hearts with care and compassion. As we recognize the challenges and suffering in our community, inspire us to meet the weeds and the wheat in our neighbors with acceptance and hope. We know that you alone have the final say, and so we give ourselves over to you as instruments of hospitality and grace that we would tend our neighbors even as we are tended by you. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 28:10-19a

- 28:10 Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran.
- 28:11 He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place.
- 28:12 And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.
- 28:13 And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring;
- 28:14 and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring.
- 28:15 Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."
- 28:16 Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place--and I did not know it!"
- 28:17 And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."
- 28:18 So, Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.
- 28:19a He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24 (Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)

- 139:1 O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
- 139:2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.**
- 139:3 You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 139:4 Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.**
- 139:5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.
- 139:6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.**
- 139:7 Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?
- 139:8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**
- 139:9 If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
- 139:10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.**
- 139:11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"

139:12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.

139:24 See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Romans 8:12-25 (Epistle Reading)

8:12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh --

8:13 for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

8:15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!"

8:16 it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

8:17 and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ--if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

8:18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.

8:19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God;

8:20 for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope

8:21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

8:22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now;

8:23 and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

8:24 For in hope, we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?

8:25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (Please stand for the Gospel)

13:24 He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;

13:25 but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away.

13:26 So, when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.

13:27 And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?'

13:28 He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?'

- 13:29 But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.
- 13:30 Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."
- 13:36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."
- 13:37 He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man;
- 13:38 the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one,
- 13:39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.
- 13:40 Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.
- 13:41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers,
- 13:42 and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- 13:43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

L: This is the word of the Lord for the people of Christ.

P: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Please be seated)*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Let us offer our silent confessions.)

It is said that confession is good for the soul, but there are times, O Lord, when we just don't want to confess, we don't want to own up to the many ways in which we have failed to be your faithful disciples. We have turned our backs on those in need. We have sought after power and riches, believing that these things bring true happiness. But you know us far too well. You know what is within our hearts and our spirits. You seek the very best for us that we might grow to be fruitful plants in your garden. Be with us. Forgive us when we have failed to love and treat others with respect and compassion. Turn our hearts back toward you, who always reaches out to us offering healing and love. These things we ask in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Great news has come to us, dear friends. God, who is faithful and just, who cherishes us as we are, seeks restoration and healing for those broken places in our lives, forgives and loves us unconditionally. Receive the Good News!

In the Name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #880 (The Nicene Creed)

***We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.***

***We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.***

Through him all things were made.

***For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.***

***For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.***

***On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.***

***We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.***

***With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.***

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

***We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.***

GLORIA PATRI (UMH #70)

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the
beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.***

HYMN #400

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

OFFERING

<https://www.wnccumc.org/online-donations-to-churches>

OFFERTORY

Meditation on "How Great Thou Art" arr. John Carter

DOXOLOGY #95 *(Please be stand)*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord, we present these tokens of the many blessings you have poured into our lives. Make us people who are unafraid to proclaim your healing mercies. Help these gifts to bring hope and comfort to all those in need. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Please be seated)*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #419

I am Thine, O Lord
Located in the back of the bulletin - (printed w/permission)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Festival Praise Robert J. Powell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

*The flowers on the altar are given by **Kay and Tom Blackstock** to the glory of God.*

Sign-up Sheets in the Fellowship Hall

We have sign-up sheets for ushers, flowers and coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall. We need ushers during the summer months to hand out bulletins.

New Scholarship Prayer Bookmarks

We have the new 2023 -2024 LTUMC scholarship prayer bookmarks at both entrances of the church. Please pray for our new scholars as they are starting to head off to a new semester.

Audio-Visual (AV) Volunteers needed to help with the weekly livestream

*We have many participating in our Sunday services either live or watching later at your convenience. If you would like to help with the livestream, please contact **Marcus** at [**marcus61dodson@gmail.com**](mailto:marcus61dodson@gmail.com).*

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Please pray for those who have long-term illness, health concerns and special intentions.

*Please pray for those having or had a surgery and their recovery. Especially for **Marilyn Beck** as she has surgery on July 25th in Atlanta.*

*Our heartfelt prayers for all who have experienced the recent passing of a loved one. Especially for **John and Char Holbrook's** niece, **Anwen** and her four children. **Joe**, her husband had a heart attack and died.*

Please continue to pray for our student scholars, our local students, teachers and staff as they prepare for the next school year.

STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS

Pastor: Marcus Dodson: 828-553-0282, marcus61dodson@gmail.com

Organist: Charlie Steele: cwsorgan@comporium.net

Church Administrator: Saunders Grommesh, 469-569-2314, administrator@laketoxawayumc.org

Lay Leaders: Paula Markert: 828-553-9434 & Scott Walter: 314-374-2969

Audio/Visual for Livestream Chair: Fred Markert: 828-553-3303

Liturgist: Brian Singleton

Hymns are located on the next few pages and used with permission via One License #737113-A

384 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down; fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing;
 trou - bled breast! Let us all in thee in - her - it;
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er,
 let us be. Let us see thy great sal - va - tion

all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown! Je - sus, thou art
 let us find that sec - ond rest. Take a - way our
 nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be
 per - fect - ly re - stored in thee; changed from glo - ry

all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it
 bent to sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of
 al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray and
 in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place, till we

us with thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1747
 MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870

BEECHER
 87.87 D

Alt. tune: HYFRYDOL

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 400

1. Come, thou Fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my heart to
 2. Here I raise mine Eb - e - ne - zer; hith - er by thy
 3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con -

sing thy grace; streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,
 help I'm come; and I hope, by thy good plea - sure,
 strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter,

call for songs of loud - est praise. Teach me some me - lo - dious
 safe - ly to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a
 bind my wan - dering heart to thee. Prone to wan - der, Lord, I

son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the mount! I'm
 stran - ger, wan - dering from the fold of God; he, to res - cue
 feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O

fixed up - on it, mount of thy re - deem - ing love.
 me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758 (1 Sam. 7:12)
 MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

NETTLETON
 87.87 D

I Am Thine, O Lord

1. I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice, and it
 2. Con - se - crate me now to thy ser - vice, Lord, by the
 3. O the pure de - light of a sin - gle hour that be -
 4. There are depths of love that I can - not know till I

told thy love to me; but I long to rise in the
 power of grace di - vine; let my soul look up with a
 fore thy throne I spend, when I kneel in prayer, and with
 cross the nar - row sea; there are heights of joy that I

arms of faith and be clos - er drawn to thee.
 stead - fast hope, and my will be lost in thine.
 thee, my God, I com - mune as friend with friend!
 may not reach till I rest in peace with thee.

Refrain

Draw me near - er, near - er, bless - ed Lord, to the
 near - er, near - er,

cross where thou hast died. Draw me near - er, near - er,

near - er, bless - ed Lord, to thy pre - cious, bleed - ing side.

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby, 1876 (Feb. 10:22)
 MUSIC: William H. Doane, 1875

I AM THINE
 10 7. 10 7 with Refrain